

November 27, 2002  
Docket # FAA-2002-13378  
To: Docket Management System  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Room Plaza 401  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the proposed regulations as published in the Federal Register of September 27, 2002, Docket number FAA-2002-13378, and urge you to adopt the regulations without further delay. I understand that the law requires airlines to train their personnel regarding safe and humane handling and care of the animal from the time of check-in to return to the owner or guardian. But I learned from the ASPCA web site that this training requirement is possibly being dropped from the regulations. Training of baggage personnel is crucial if we are to prevent mishaps from occurring and, thereby, prevent animals from escaping, sustaining injuries, or perishing during transport.

I am the founder of Missing Pet Partnership, a 501(c)(3), nonprofit corporation that is developing "lost pet services," including the use of cat detection dogs, scent tracking dogs, high-tech equipment, humane traps to capture hiding, panicked cats. Cats that are lost within airport baggage centers could easily be captured and returned to their owners if the baggage personnel at airports were properly trained in how to recover a displaced (lost) cat! Missing Pet Partnership offers a course called "Trap-And-Reunite" in which we are training and certifying feline advocate organizations in how to recover lost cats using humane trapping techniques. Andrew Wysotski, the disgruntled owner of a cat named "Fu" recently sued Air Canada for losing his cat at the San Francisco Airport. In an interview on his web site [www.AirCanadaAnimalAbuse.com](http://www.AirCanadaAnimalAbuse.com), he stated the following:

WYSOTSKI: Basically this happens to about 5,000 animals every year. When I looked for our cat in the airport, I saw -- I don't know how many, probably there are about 200 cats living in the San Francisco airport.

Missing Pet Partnership is interesting in working with airlines to both train their baggage employees in how to recover lost pets as well as develop volunteer "Airport Missing Animal Response" (AMAR) teams--volunteer airline employees certified in how to use high-tech equipment, search dogs, and other techniques to quickly recover lost pets. If a dog or cat or other pet escapes from its crate and nothing is done in an attempt to recover it then it will remain lost. But if an organized, trained team can respond, it is quite likely there can be a rapid recovery and a satisfied customer. There are tools (search dogs) and equipment (humane traps, search cameras) that exist that, if used properly by trained airline personnel, could quickly recover a lost dog or cat. I urge you enforce the portion of the law that requires baggage handlers to undergo animal handling training. Thank you again for issuing the proposed regulations.  
Sincerely,

Kathy ?Kat? Albrecht  
Founder  
Missing Pet Partnership  
[www.lostapet.org](http://www.lostapet.org)